

CIA/OCI/BRIEF 170-75  
4 NOVEMBER 1975

Approved For Release 2001/08/21 : CIA-RDP86-01060R0003000400120

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TO: EUROPEAN BRIEF #170-75Y

1. SOVIET MILITARY PARADE MAY BE LESS MILITARY: THIS YEAR'S MILITARY PARADE THROUGH RED SQUARE ON NOVEMBER 7 MAY NOT INCLUDE THE TRACKED VEHICLES AND LARGE MISSILES NORMALLY SEEN IN THE PAST. KNOWLEDGEABLE SOURCES WHO HAVE OBSERVED TWO REHEARSALS SAW ONLY HALF THE AMOUNT OF EQUIPMENT OF PREVIOUS YEARS AND NONE OF THE LARGE PIECES. SUCH REHEARSALS USUALLY CORRESPOND CLOSELY TO THE PARADE ITSELF, ALTHOUGH THE SOVIETS HAVE ON OCCASION DISPLAYED EQUIPMENT ON NOVEMBER 7 NOT SEEN IN REHEARSAL.4

IF THE LARGE EQUIPMENT IS DELETED FROM THIS YEAR'S ANNIVERSARY EVENT, IT COULD MEAN THAT THE KREMLIN HAS DECIDED TO PLAY DOWN THE MARTIAL TRAP-PINGS OF THE CELEBRATION AND THEREBY BRING IT MORE CLOSELY INTO HARMONY WITH MOSCOW'S "PEACE PROGRAM." SINCE HELSINKI, SOVIET PROPAGANDA HAS MADE MUCH OF THE NEED TO COMPLEMENT POLITICAL DETENTE WITH A RELAXATION OF MILITARY TENSION.4

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LAST YEAR, THE CONCLUDING CIVILIAN PORTION OF THE PARADE WAS ABRUPTLY CANCELED, OSTENSIBLY BECAUSE OF INCLEMENT WEATHER, BUT PROBABLY TO PROTECT THE HEALTH OF THE AGING SOVIET LEADERS ON THE REVIEWING STAND. THE RESULTING PREDOMINANCE OF MILITARY THEMES PROVOKED A FLURRY OF UNWELCOME WESTERN PRESS SPECULATION AND MAY HAVE PROMPTED A CLOSER LOOK AT THE FORMAT FOR THIS YEAR'S ACTIVITIES.

MORE MUNDANE CONSIDERATIONS MAY ALSO HAVE FIGURED IN THE DECISION TO FORGO A DISPLAY OF HEAVY EQUIPMENT THIS YEAR. THE SOVIETS MAY BE TRYING TO PROTECT RECENTLY RESURFACED ROADS ALONG THE PARADE ROUTE. {CONFIDENTIAL} E-2, IMPDET.H

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MIDDLE EAST AFRICA BRIEF 170-75.4

1. LEBANON: AS THE LATEST CEASE-FIRE GRADUALLY TAKES HOLD, ATTENTION HAS SHIFTED TO FEUDING BETWEEN PRIME MINISTER KARAMI AND INTERIOR MINISTER SHAMUN, WHICH NOW THREATENS POLITICAL EFFORTS TO DEAL WITH THE CRISIS.4

THE UNEASY RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE TWO LEADERS HAS SHARPLY DETERIORATED AS A RESULT OF KARAMI'S ACCUSATIONS THAT SHAMUN'S NATIONAL LIBERAL PARTY WAS PARTIALLY RESPONSIBLE FOR THE MOST RECENT ROUND OF FIGHTING. KARAMI HAS ALSO TAKEN OVER SECURITY RESPONSIBILITIES PREVIOUSLY HANDLED BY SHAMUN, INCLUDING THE NEGOTIATION AND IMPLEMENTATION OF THE LATEST CEASE-FIRE. THE PRIME MINISTER WILL HOLD A CABINET MEETING TUESDAY TO GAIN MAJORITY APPROVAL OF THE NEW TRUCE IN AN APPARENT EFFORT TO HEAD OFF ANTICIPATED CRITICISM FROM SHAMUN.4

THE DEEPENING RIFT BETWEEN KARAMI AND HIS MINISTER WILL UNDERMINE EFFORTS TO REVIVE THE NATIONAL DIALOGUE COMMITTEE, WHICH WAS SCHEDULED TO MEET MONDAY AFTER TWO WEEKS OF INACTIVITY.4

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PAST QUARRELS BETWEEN KARAMI AND SHAMUN HAVE BEEN SUCCESSFULLY MEDIATED AND, IN THIS INSTANCE, PRESIDENT FRANJIYAH AND OTHERS ARE APPARENTLY TRYING TO WORK OUT A RECONCILIATION. THERE IS NOW TALK, HOWEVER, THAT SHAMUN WILL RESIGN FROM THE CABINET. OBSERVERS IN BEIRUT BELIEVE THAT THE WITHDRAWAL OF THE ONLY EFFECTIVE SPOKESMAN FOR CHRISTIAN INTERESTS WOULD FURTHER ERODE THE AUTHORITY OF THE GOVERNMENT AND WOULD PROBABLY TRIGGER ANOTHER ROUND OF SERIOUS FIGHTING. {SECRET}4

2. ISRAEL-EGYPT: THE FIRST SHIP CARRYING ISRAELI CARGO THROUGH THE SUEZ CANAL SINCE THE LATE 1950S ARRIVED AT THE ISRAELI PORT OF EILAT EARLY TUESDAY. EGYPTIAN AUTHORITIES BARRED THE PRESS FROM COVERING THE SHIP'S PASSAGE THROUGH THE CANAL ON SUNDAY, CONTENDING THAT THEY FEARED SABOTAGE ATTACKS BY RADICAL ARABS OR PALESTINIANS WHO OPPOSE THE EGYPTIAN-ISRAELI ACCORD. A MORE LIKELY EXPLANATION IS THAT CAIRO WISHED TO AVOID EXTENSIVE PUBLICITY, AND PARTICULARLY WANTED TO KEEP ARAB PRESS COVERAGE OF THE EVENT TO A MINIMUM. {CONFIDENTIAL} E-2 IMPDET-H

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WESTERN HEMISPHERE BRIEF 170-75.4

ARGENTINA: ARGENTINE PRESIDENT MARIA ESTELA PERON'S LATEST HEALTH PROBLEMS COULD GIVE SENIOR GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS A CHANCE TO SOOTHE POLITICAL TEMPERS FOLLOWING THE CONTROVERSIAL APPOINTMENT LAST WEEK OF ANIRAL DENARCO TO THE POST OF SOCIAL WELFARE MINISTER.4

PERON IS REPORTED TO HAVE A GALL BLADDER DIFFICULTY, BUT SHE IS KNOWN TO USE PHYSICAL ILLNESS AS AN EXCUSE WHEN UNDER EMOTIONAL STRAIN. IF SHE DOES HAVE A GALL BLADDER DISEASE, SURGERY MAY BE NECESSARY, WHICH COULD REMOVE HER FROM THE SCENE FOR AT LEAST A MONTH. SHE MAY HAVE ONLY GASTROINTESTINAL SPASMS, WHICH COULD RESPOND TO TREATMENT IN A FEW DAYS. MOST POLITICAL LEADERS WILL WELCOME PERON'S ABSENCE AGAIN.4

DENARCO, TRYING TO DISASSOCIATE HIMSELF FROM THE DISCREDITED LOPEZ REGA, HIS FORMER SUPERIOR, HAS PROMISED A CLEAN SWEEP OF SENIOR OFFICIALS WITHIN THE MINISTRY TO ELIMINATE CORRUPTION, AND HAS ALREADY ACCEPTED THE RESIGNATION OF ONE OFFICIAL.4

THE ARGENTINE CONGRESS IS CONTINUING ITS EFFORTS TO OBTAIN A FULL DISCLOSURE OF FINANCIAL MISDEALING UNDER LOPEZ REGA IN THE HOPE

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OF DISCREDITING PERON'S ADMINISTRATION AND GIVING HER THE ALTERNATIVES OF IMPEACHMENT OR RESIGNATION. Y

MILITARY OPPOSITION TO THE PRESIDENT IS HARDENING, BUT THERE IS NO EVIDENCE THAT ARMY COMMANDERS ARE PLANNING AN IMMEDIATE MOVE AGAINST HER. Y

IT IS CLEAR, HOWEVER, THAT SOME ARMY CORP COMMANDERS THINK THAT MILITARY INTERVENTION WOULD BE THE MOST EFFECTIVE WAY TO END POLITICAL UNCERTAINTY. {CONFIDENTIAL} E-2 IMPDET. H

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TO: EAST ASIA BRIEF 170-754

1. CAMBODIA-THAILAND: CAMBODIAN DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER IENG SARY AND HIS THAI HOSTS IN BANGKOK HAVE APPARENTLY ESTABLISHED A FAVORABLE ATMOSPHERE FOR FUTURE CONTACTS BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES.4

THE AGREEMENT TO ESTABLISH DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WAS PROBABLY PARTICULARLY GRATIFYING TO THE THAI, WHO HAVE THUS FAR MADE LITTLE PROGRESS IN RESOLVING THEIR DIFFERENCES WITH THE VIETNAMESE OR THE LAO. THE JOINT COMMUNIQUE'S VAGUE FORMULATION ON THE TIMING OF AMBASSADORIAL EXCHANGES--AT A CONVENIENT DATE "DEPENDING ON PREVAILING CONDITIONS"--CONFIRMS, HOWEVER, THAT THE CAMBODIANS ARE NOT ANXIOUS TO PERMIT THAI DIPLOMATIC EMISSARIES IN PHNOM PENH.4

THAI AGREEMENT TO THE PLEDGE THAT BOTH PARTIES WOULD NOT ALLOW THEIR TERRITORY TO BE USED FOR HOSTILE PURPOSES AGAINST THE OTHER WAS PROBABLY INTENDED TO ALLAY CAMBODIAN FEARS OF THAI GOVERNMENT SUPPORT FOR RESISTANCE GROUPS OPERATING IN THE BORDER AREA AGAINST CAMBODIA. FOR THEIR PART, THE THAI MAY INTERPRET THE STATEMENT AS A CAMBODIAN EXPRESSION OF NONSUPPORT FOR THAI INSURGENTS.4

THE COMMUNIQUE DID NOT REFER TO THE REFUGEE ISSUE, ALTHOUGH

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IENTG SARY TOLD REPORTERS THE TWO COUNTRIES SHARE A "COMMON DESIRE" THAT THE REFUGEES RETURN TO CAMBODIA. THIS PROBLEM MAY BE HANDLED BY LIAISON OFFICES DUE TO BE ESTABLISHED ON THE BORDER FOLLOWING FUTURE TALKS. ACCORDING TO THAI FOREIGN MINISTER CHATCHAI, THE LIAISON OFFICES WILL ALSO HANDLE BORDER TRADE, SUGGESTING THAT THE CAMBODIANS WILL EVENTUALLY PAY LOWER PRICES FOR MUCH-NEEDED RICE AND PETROLEUM PRODUCTS THAN THEY DO NOW FROM PRIVATE TRADERS. THAI OFFICIALS HAVE REPORTED THAT THE CAMBODIANS REFUSED THAI AID OFFERS, BUT DID AGREE TO NEGOTIATE A SYSTEM OF BARTER TRADE.4

ACCORDING TO CHATCHAI, THE CAMBODIANS DID NOT RAISED THE ISSUE OF AIRCRAFT AND MILITARY EQUIPMENT TAKEN INTO THAILAND AT THE TIME OF THE COMMUNIST TAKE-OVER. THE CAMBODIAN WILLINGNESS TO TAKE THE FIRST STEP TOWARD NORMALIZING RELATIONS WITH THAILAND, WITHOUT MAKING RETURN OF THE EQUIPMENT A PRECONDITION, IS FURTHER EVIDENCE OF PHNOM PENH'S INDEPENDENT STANCE VIS-A-VIS ITS INDOCHINESE NEIGHBORS. BOTH THE VIETNAMESE AND THE LAO INSIST THAT THIS ISSUE BE RESOLVED BEFORE ANY SUBSTANTIAL IMPROVEMENT CAN BE MADE IN THEIR RELATIONS WITH THAILAND. {SECRET} E-2, IMPDET.H

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